

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /065 W

----- 088280

R 111035Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5005

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, MARR

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL DEFENSE UNITS FORMING

1. JOHANNESBURG AIRGRAM MARCH 3 (NOTAL) FORWARDED COPY OF NOTICE CIRCULATING IN THAT AREA FROM "CIVIL EMERGENCY UNIT" URGING THAT ORGANIZATION BE FLESHED OUT TO "PREPARE FOR ANY EMERGENCY IN OUR CITIES, TOWNS OR ON THE PLATTELAND".

2. SABC LOCAL NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BROADCAST IN CAPE TOWN MORNING MARCH 11 INCLUDED NOTICES THAT CIVIL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS IN KIMBERLEY AND BLOEMFONTEIN WOULD BE HOLDING MEETINGS AND DISTRIBUTION OF NOTICES TO PUBLIC OVER THE WEEKEND.

DECLARED PURPOSE WAS TO DISCUSS PREPARATION FOR ANY POSSIBLE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WHICH MIGHT CAUSE A DISRUPTION OF NORMAL PATTERNS OF ACTIVITY. VOLUNTEERS FOR LOCAL DISTRICT WARDEN

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DUTIES WOULD BE SOUGHT, AND PLANS LAID TO INSURE THAT VITAL

PUBLIC SERVICES AND PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES COULD
CONTINUE FUNCTIONING IF ANY CRISIS SHOULD ARISE. NO EVIDENCE
YET SEEN THAT SIMILAR MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN IN THE WESTERN
CAPE, NOR THAT SAG HAS ISSUED CALL FOR SUCH ACTIONS.

3. COMMENT: NOTHING LIKE THIS AROSE DURING ANGOLA CRISIS,
BUT DEVELOPMENTS ALONG RHODESIA-MOZAMBIQUE BORDER APPEAR
TO HAVE LED TO A SENSE OF CONCERN AMONG MANY SOUTH AFRICANS.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DEFENSE, MILITARY BUILDUP, NATIONAL SECURITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAPET00247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760092-1018
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760373/aaaachre.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL DEFENSE UNITS FORMING
TAGS: MARR, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006